



We cordially invite you to:

"The Social Mark" Symposium: Poetry Reading & Panel Discussion

Slought Foundation, February 28-March 1, 2003

<http://slought.org/toc/calendar/display.php?key=social>

1. "The Social Mark (I): Poetry Readings"

Friday February 28; 7 – 9 pm

Featuring: Jules Boykoff, David Buuck, Louis Cabri, Jeff Derksen, Laura Elrick, Alan Gilbert, Carol Mirakove, Mark Nowak, Kristin Prevallet, Kaia Sand, Joshua Schuster, Rodrigo Toscano (Poet biographies attached; online)

2. "The Social Mark (II): Poetry Talks / Discussion With The Poets"

Saturday March 1; 3 – 5 pm

Poetry, Texts for "The Social Mark" Symposium temporarily available:

<http://slought.org/private/socialmark/>

For more information, contact:

Aaron Levy, Louis Cabri
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“What secrets of future times are hidden in this little word [“social”] [...].
Karl Grun (mid 1900s)

“Society” is not a valid object of discourse. There is no single underlying principle fixing – and hence constituting – the whole field of differences.

Ernesto Laclau & Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony & Socialist Strategy* (1985)

Just as society doesn't exist, we should formulate the basic materialist thesis that “the world doesn't exist” [...].
Slavoj Zizek, *Revolution at the Gates* (2002)

They're casting their problems on society. And you know, there's no such thing as society. There are individual men and women, there are families. And no government can do anything except through people, and people must look after themselves first. [...] There is no such thing as entitlement, unless someone has first met an obligation.
Margaret Thatcher (1980s)

In this life
to die
has never been hard.

To make new life
's more difficult
by far.
Vladimir Mayakovsky, *To Sergey Esenin* (1926)

[T]here cannot be a situation where the writer creates something that does not carry its social mark.
Osip Brik, *The Social Command* (1929)

We understood his [Mayakovsky's] lines about unmarked, “easy” death, and about the fact that “to make a life is markedly more difficult,” and we realized that, according to this upside-down view of the world, not death but life “required motivation.” [...] [F]or Mayakovsky, life was a marked category and could be realized only when there was a motivation for it [...].
Roman Jakobson, *The Concept of Mark* (1930s, 1980)

Ch. What news?
Cl. Strange ones, and fit for a novation.
Chapman, *Revenge of Bussy d'Ambois* (1613)

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Biographies (In No Particular Order):

Rodrigo Toscano's three books include: *The Disparities* (Green Integer) and *Partisans* (O Books) and *Platform* (Atelos). Recent poetry can be found in *Open Letter*, *Cross Cultural Poetics*, the upcoming *Anthology of Brazilian and American Poetry*, *Cities of Chance* (Rattapallax), and an Audio CD compilation by Kenning Audio Editions. His work has been translated into German, Portuguese and Spanish. Toscano is originally from California (San Diego & San Francisco). He has been living in NYC for four years where he works at the Labor Institute.

Jeff Derksen is author of the forthcoming *Transnational Muscle Cars* and of *But Could I Make a Living From It* (hole, 2000). He is the author of *Dwell* (Talonbooks, 1993) and *Down Time* (Talonbooks, 1990), a past editor of *Writing* magazine, and a founding member of the Kootenay School of Writing. He is currently a Fulbright scholar living in Brooklyn.

Louis Cabri is author of *The Mood Embosser* (Toronto: Coach House Books, 2001), a selection of poems written during the 'nineties. He curated the poets' dialogue series *PhillyTalks* (<http://phillytalks.org>) and recently co-edited two special issues of *Open Letter* magazine of letters to/from poets (available online, <http://www.arts.uwo.ca/openlet/11.3/>). He currently teaches at the Alberta College of Art and Design, and is completing a Ph.D. in English at the University of Pennsylvania.

David Buuck lives in Oakland, where he co-edits *Tripwire*, a journal of poetics, with Yedda Morrison.

Mark Nowak is author of *-revenants-* (coffee house press) and editor of *-XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics-*. Recent poetry appears in *-hambone-*, *-tripwire-*, & *-west coast line-*. His essay, "'to commit suicide in buffalo is redundant': music and death in zero city, 1982-82," is forthcoming in *-goth: undead subculture-* (Duke UP).

Alan Gilbert's writings on poetry, art, and politics have appeared in a number of publications, including *Afterimage*, *Boston Review*, and *Xcp: Cross-Cultural Poetics*. Recent poems have appeared in *The Baffler*, *The Germ*, and *First Intensity*. He lives in New York City, where he edits *FYI*, a quarterly arts magazine published by the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Kristin Prevallet is the author of *Scratch Sides: Poetry, Documentation, and Image-Text Projects* (Skanky Possum, 2002). She is also the author of *The Parasite Poems* (Barque Press Chapbook, 1999) and *Perturbation, My Sister* (First Intensity Press, 1997). She is working on several writing projects with visual artists, most recently with Annemie Maes's *People's Database*. Her essays and poetry have appeared in several magazines including *Jacket*, *Chain*, *Poetry New York*, and *The Chicago Review*. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Laura Elrick's poetry and essays have appeared in numerous places, including *Tripwire*, *Combo*, *The Tangent*, *Crayon*, *Torquere* (Canada), and *Quid* (UK). She lives in New York City where she is a co-curator for the *Segue on the Bowery* reading series. Her first book *sKincerity* is forthcoming from Krupskaya in June 2003.

Joshua Schuster is currently a graduate student in English at University of Pennsylvania. He recently contributed "the word 'you'," addressed to Benjamin Hollander, for *Open Letter* (Eleventh Series, No. 3, Fall 2001).

Carol Mirakove is the author of *temporary tattoos* (BabySelf Press, 2002) and *WALL* (ixnay press, 1999). She is a founding member of the subpress collective, with whom she published *Fractured Humorous* by Edwin Torres. Poems from her series *Fuck the Polis* (Los Angeles, California: 1999-2001) are forthcoming in *xconnect* and *Tool: A Magazine*. She works in technology and lives in Brooklyn.

Jules Boykoff lives in the Washington, DC area where he co-edits *THE TANGENT*, a zine of politics and the arts, co-curates the *In Your Ear* poetry reading series at the DC Arts Center, and co-hosts the weekly DC radio program "Roots & Culture." Poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *ANTENNAE*, *COMBO*, *KENNING*, *LIPSTICK ELEVEN*, & *POM2*.

Kaia Sand co-edits the *Tangent*, a zine of politics and the arts; co-curates the *_In Your Ear_* poetry series in Washington DC; and teaches at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Most recently, poems appear in *Bivouac*, *Kenning*, *Lipstick 11*, *Antennae*, and *Anomaly*. A book of poems *_Interval_* is forthcoming with Edge Books.

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